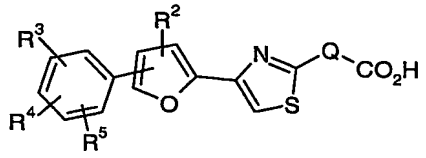
CLAIMS:

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof:



(I)

wherein

Q is $(CH_2)_m[CH(R^1)]_n(CH_2)_p$ where n is 0 or 1, and m and p are independently 0, 1 or 2;

R^1 is hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl or C_{3-6} alkynyl;

R^2 is hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy or C_{1-6} alkoxy, or phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^6, CN and methylenedioxo;

R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy or C_{1-6} alkoxy, CF_3, OR^6, COR^7, $NHCOR^8$, $NHCONHR^8$, $NHSO_2R^8$, $CONHR^9$, CN, SO_2R^8 or $NR^{10}R^{11}$;

R^6 is hydrogen, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{3-6} alkynyl, C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy or C_{1-6} alkoxy, aryl or heteroaryl wherein aryl or heteroaryl is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen, CF_3, OCF_3, CN, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy and methylenedioxo;

R^7 is C_{1-6} alkyl, OR^6 or phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen, CF_3, OCF_3, CN, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy and $NHCOR^8$;

R^8 is C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl or C_{1-6} alkoxy any of which may be optionally substituted by aryl or heteroaryl, wherein the aryl or heteroaryl is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^6, CN, C_{1-6} alkyl, methylenedioxo and $NR^{10}R^{11}$; C_{3-6} cycloalkyl wherein the ring may contain up to two heteroatoms selected from NR^{12}, S and O; or aryl or heteroaryl wherein the aryl or heteroaryl is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^6, CN, C_{1-6} alkyl, methylenedioxo and $NR^{10}R^{11}$;

R^9 is C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkylphenyl or phenyl, wherein alkyl may be interrupted by oxygen and wherein phenyl is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, CF_3, OCF_3, CN, C_{1-6} alkoxy and methylenedioxo;

R^{10} and R^{11} are independently hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl, or together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a 5- to 6-membered heterocyclic group which optionally contains an additional heteroatom selected from NR^{12}, O and S; and

R^{12} is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl;

provided that the compound is not:

i) 2-[4-[5-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)furan-2-yl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]acetic acid.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein Q is CH_2.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein R^2 is hydrogen or halogen.

4. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently, hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxyl or C_{1-6} alkoxy, CF_3, OR^6, $NHCOR^8$ or $CONHR^9$, wherein at least one of R^3, R^4 and R^5 is other than hydrogen.

5. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein one of R^3 and R^4 is $NHCOR^8$ and the other is hydrogen or halogen and R^5 is hydrogen.

6. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein R^8 is C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl or C_{1-6} alkoxy any of which may be optionally substituted by phenyl wherein the phenyl is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^6, CN, C_{1-6} alkyl, methylenedioxo and $NR^{10}R^{11}$; C_{3-6} cycloalkyl wherein the ring may contain up to two heteroatoms selected from NR^{12}, S and O; phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^6, CN and methylenedioxo; or a 5- to 10-membered mono- or bicyclic heteroaryl group containing up to three heteroatoms selected from O, N and S which heteroaryl group may be substituted by C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy or halogen.

7. A compound according to claim 6 wherein R^8 is C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{2-6} alkenyl either of which may be optionally substituted by phenyl wherein the phenyl is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^6, CN, C_{1-6} alkyl, methylenedioxo and $NR^{10}R^{11}$; phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^6, CN and methylenedioxo; or a 5- to 10-membered mono- or bicyclic heteroaryl group containing up to three heteroatoms selected from O, N and S which heteroaryl group may be substituted by C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy or halogen.

8. A compound of formula (I) as described in any one of Examples 1 to 24 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof.

9. A compound selected from:

2-[4-[5-[2-Chloro-4-[(2,4-dichlorophenylcarbonyl)amino]phenyl]furan-2-yl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]acetic acid,

2-[4-[5-[2-Chloro-4-[3-(4-bromo)phenylacryloylamino]phenyl]furan-2-yl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]acetic acid,

2-[4-[5-[2-Chloro-4-[3-(2,4-dichloro)phenylacryloylamino]phenyl]furan-2-yl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]acetic acid,

2-[4-[5-[2-Chloro-4-[3-(3,5-ditrifluoromethyl)phenylacryloylamino]phenyl]furan-2-yl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]acetic acid,

2-[4-[5-[2-Chloro-4-(3-phenylacryloylamino)phenyl]furan-2-yl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]acetic acid,

2-[4-[5-[2-Chloro-4-[(4-trifluoromethoxyphenylcarbonyl)amino]phenyl]furan-2-yl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]acetic acid,

2-[4-[5-[2-Chloro-4-[(benzothiophene-2-carbonyl)amino]phenyl]furan-2-yl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]acetic acid,

2-[4-[5-[2-Chloro-4-[(6-chloro-4H-chromene-3-carbonyl)amino]phenyl]furan-2-yl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]acetic acid,

2-[4-[5-[2-Chloro-4-[(3,4-dichlorophenylcarbonyl)amino]phenyl]furan-2-yl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]acetic acid,

2-[4-[5-[2-Chloro-4-[(3-methoxyphenylcarbonyl)amino]phenyl]furan-2-yl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]acetic acid, and

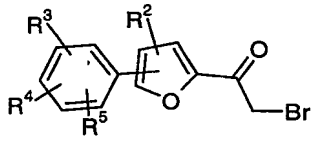
2-[4-[5-[2-Chloro-4-[(4-trifluoromethoxyphenylcarbonyl)amino]phenyl]furan-2-yl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]acetic acid,

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and prodrugs thereof.

10. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 9, without proviso i), for use in medicine.

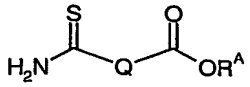
11. A process for the preparation of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 9 which comprises:

reacting a compound of formula (II):



(II)

wherein R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are as defined in claim 1, with a compound of formula (III):

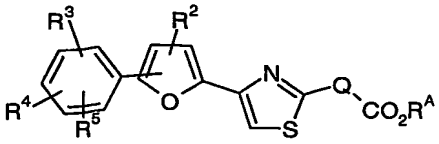


(III)

wherein Q is as defined in claim 1 and R^A is H, C_{1-6} alkyl or a suitable protecting group; followed, where required, by deprotection of the group OR^A to give the corresponding carboxylic acid.

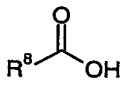
12. A process for the preparation of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein one or more of R^3, R^4 and R^5 is $NHCOR^8$ which comprises:

reacting a compound of formula (VIII):



(VIII)

wherein one or more of R^3, R^4 and R^5 is NH_2, R^2 and Q are as defined in claim 1 and R^A is as defined in claim 11, with a compound of formula (IX):



(IX)

wherein R^8 is as defined in claim 1, in an amide bond formation reaction.

13. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 9, without proviso i), together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

14. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 9, without proviso i), in the manufacture of a medicament for the inhibition of heparanase.

15. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 9, without proviso i), in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer.

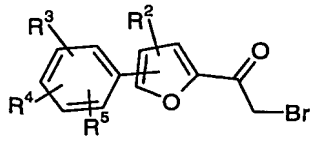
16. The use as claimed in claim 15 wherein the cancer is:

(a) a metastatic tumour cell type, such as, melanoma, lymphoma, leukaemia, fibrosarcoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, and mastocytoma; or

(b) a carcinoma, such as, colorectal cancer, prostate cancer, small cell lung cancer and non-small cell lung cancer, breast cancer, pancreatic cancer, bladder cancer, renal cancer, gastric cancer and ovarian cancer.

17. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 9, without proviso i), in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disease selected from angiogenesis or an angiogenesis dependent disease, an inflammatory disease, an autoimmune disease and a cardiovascular disease.

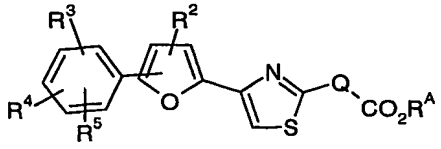
18. A compound of formula (II):



(II)

wherein, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are as defined in claim 1.

19. A compound of formula (X):



(X)

wherein Q and R^2 are as defined in claim 1, R^A is as defined in claim 11, at least one of R^3, R^4 and R^5 is NO_2 and the remainder are as defined in claim 1.